

Pilots May Get Chance Next Week

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The Air Force's maiden attempt to catch the nose cone of a satellite failed yesterday, but specially-equipped "Flying Boxcars" from Hickam Air Force Base will have another try next week.

Nine of the big C-119 planes ranged out from Hickam yesterday to try to snatch the nose cone of Discoverer V as it plummeted down from space.

BUT THE nose cone and all its previous secrets vanished without a trace after being ejected successfully from the satellite. Ninety fliers, who have been practicing nose-cone snatching since last December returned home disappointed.

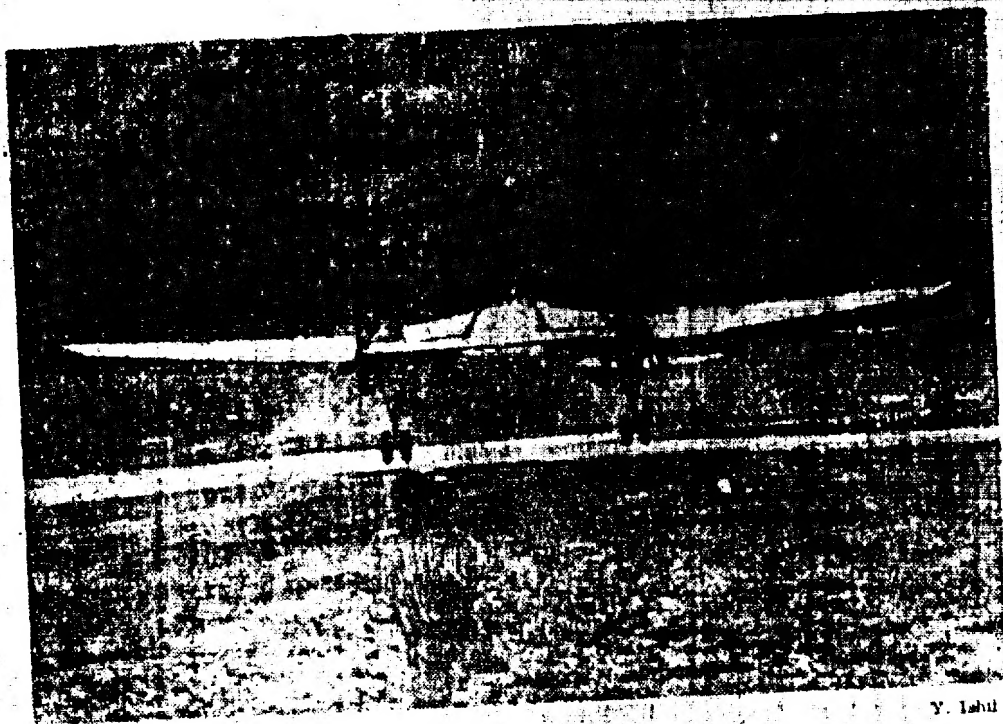
It was learned unofficially that another satellite, Discoverer VI, probably will be ready for launching from Vandenberg Air Force Base on Monday.

This would mean the Hickam planes again would be over the ocean southwest of here on Wednesday or Thursday, ready to try again.

JUST WHAT went wrong yesterday couldn't be learned officially here or anywhere else. Only one thing was sure—the failure wasn't the fault of the men who flew out in the recovery planes confident of their ability to snag the nose cone if it came their way.

The thing just didn't show up. It sent no radio signals and it wasn't spotted.

NAVY SHIPS continued last night to search for the



Nose-cone catching Flying Boxcar takes off on its futile mission.

capsule. But assuming it did come down and was floating on the sea, its radio was silent. The capsule measures 27 inches by 33 inches. Authorities conceded the search was almost, but not quite, hopeless.

The planes took part in the search during the afternoon, then came home about 5:15 p.m. They had taken off in the morning just before 9 a.m. They were in the air more than eight hours.

The Navy surface and helicopter search of the 10,000 square mile capsule target area was expected to continue through today.

YESTERDAY'S failure at capsule recovery was the second in a total of five Discoverer satellite firings so far.